GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2455
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTIVE TECHNIQUES CLINICS
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the commercial exploitation of indigenously produced human embryos;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check this trend;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a Bill for regulation of artificial reproductive technique clinics in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2455 ON REGULATION OF ARTI REPRODUCTIVE TECHNIQUES CLINICS TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2002

(a) to (d) Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in the country is provided by private sector only and as such there is no data available on the commercial exploitation of human embryo in the country. Art requires enormous technical expertise and infrastructure and has a success rate of less than 30% under the best of circumstances and is very expensive and is handled in the private sectors. ART has a wide range of applications that impinge on human life, raise great public concern about their possible misuse.

The Department of Family Welfare, to address the issues of ART, has brought out through ICMR, a Draft Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India.These draft guidelines address the issues concerning malpractices including exploitation of indigenously produced human embryos, quality of ART services render by these clinics and several other ethical and legal issues and have been released for public debate with concerned peoples/professionals/scientists/ organizations etc.